

Built Environment and Health Consortium

Mission and Vision

The University of Miami Built Environment and Health Consortium is an interdisciplinary group of bioscientists, health scientists, architects and urban planners, social and behavioral scientists and epidemiologists whose mission is to promote family and community-based health research that furthers understanding of the environmental contributors to health. The consortium conducts empirical research, training and health advocacy using scientifically based models of the cultural, social and environmental mediators of health. The overarching mission of the Consortium is to integrate perspectives from the biosciences, international, national, regional, and local health agencies (e.g., NIH, CDC, WHO, PAHO, Florida and Dade County Health Depts), the health sciences, and family and community organizations to improve health in work, educational, and residential settings among others.

Cross-disciplinary scientific evidence

The activities of the Consortium are underpinned by empirical evidence from several disciplines and paradigms.

- Emerging evidence that the social, cultural and in particular complex levels of the physical (built) environment of neighborhoods and communities contribute substantially to health status (Fox, Jackson, & Barondess, 2003).
- Compelling findings on the relationship between the physical environment, activity, obesity, and chronic diseases (Addy et al., 2004; Malaguti, Castorini, & Lechan, 2004).
- Growing evidence on the relationship between social connectedness and health status (House, Landis & Umberson, 1988).
- Perspectives on culture, SES, and disparities in health behaviors and status, quality of life, and well-being.

Capabilities and Operations of the Consortium

- ✓ Catalyze, support and seek funding for interdisciplinary health research that incorporates built environment contributors.
- ✓ Translate emerging research findings for dissemination by policy and advocacy groups to enhance health literacy.
- ✓ Encourage long term studies and legislation to address the health impact of interventions into the social or physical structure of residential, work, and educational environment

References

- Addy, C. L., Wilson, D.K., Kirtland, K. A., Ainsworth, B. E., Sharpe, P., & Kimsey, D. (2004). Associations of perceived social and physical environmental supports with physical activity and walking behavior. *American Journal of Public Health, 94*, 440 – 443.
- Fox, D. M., Jackson, R. J., & Barondess, J. A. (2003). Health and the built environment. *Journal of Urban Health: Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine, 80*, 534 – 535.
- Malaguti, T. R., Castorina, S., Roti, E., & Lechan, R. M. (2004). New paradigms in neuroendocrinology: Relationships between obesity, systemic inflammation and the neuroendocrine system. *Journal of Endocrinological Research, 27*, 182 – 186.
- House, J. L., Landis, K. R., & Umberson, D. (1988). Social relationships and health. *Science, 241*, 540 – 545.



Built Environment and Health Consortium

Presentation to the
Recreation and Culture Committee
of The Miami-Dade County
Board of Commissioners

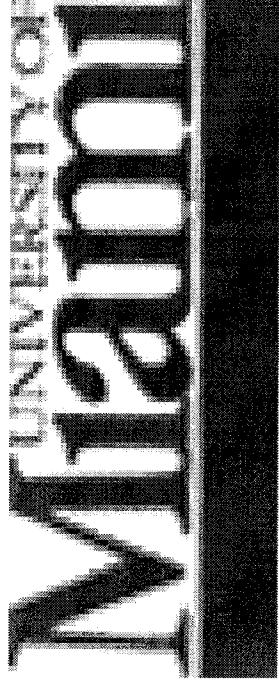
José Szapocznik
Francisco Tejada
Joanna Lombard
Psychologist, Physician, Architect



Built Environment and Health Consortium

National Institutes of Health Launches Major Initiative on Built Environments and Obesity

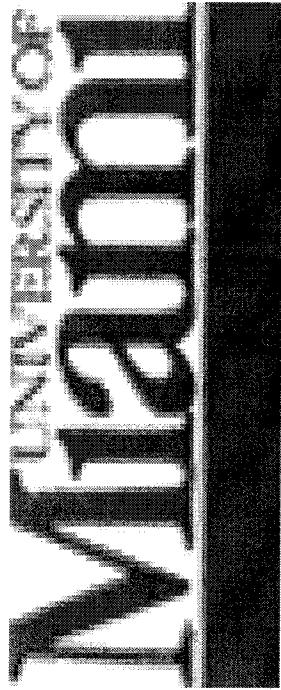
- Two thirds of Americans are obese or overweight.
- Each year in US 400,000 deaths and 117 Billion in health care expenditures are attributable to obesity.
- Now epidemic proportions



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National Institutes of Health Launches Major Initiative on Built Environments and Obesity

- Educational programs have failed
- Understand contribution of built environment to obesity.
- Role of city and regional planning, housing, transportation, media, public and green spaces in physical activity and dietary practices.
- Encourage interdisciplinary partnerships between health science, urban planning, design and transportation



We are Responding!

- An interdisciplinary group of 35 concerned physicians, architects and urban planners, social and behavioral scientists bioscientists, and epidemiologists at UM has formed a Consortium on Built Environments and Health.
- (Please see enclosed list of members and all contact information)



Built Environment and Health Consortium

What is Our Mission?

- Our mission is to advocate for family and community-based health intervention and research that furthers understanding of the environmental contributors to health.

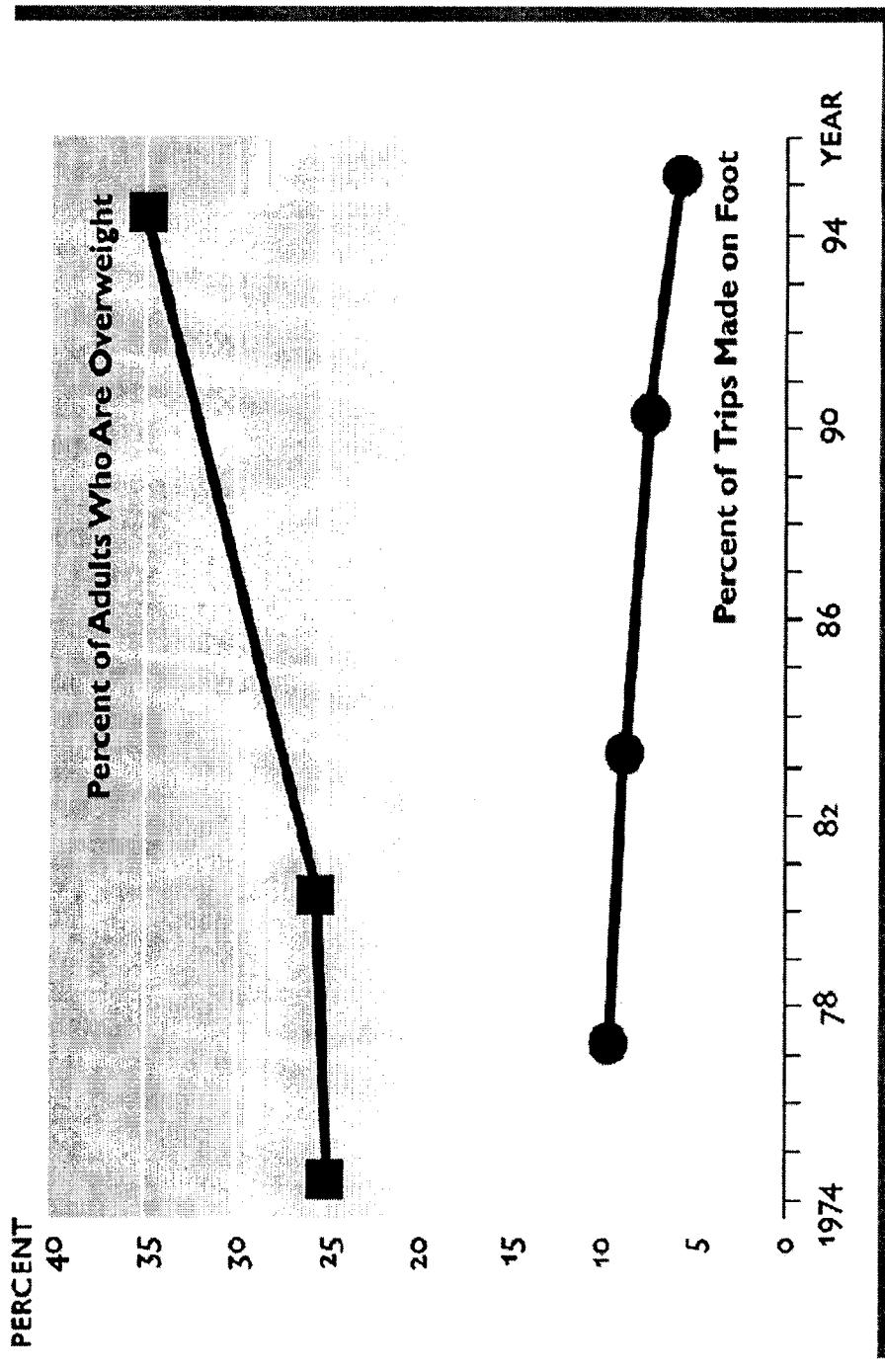


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What Do We Seek to Do?

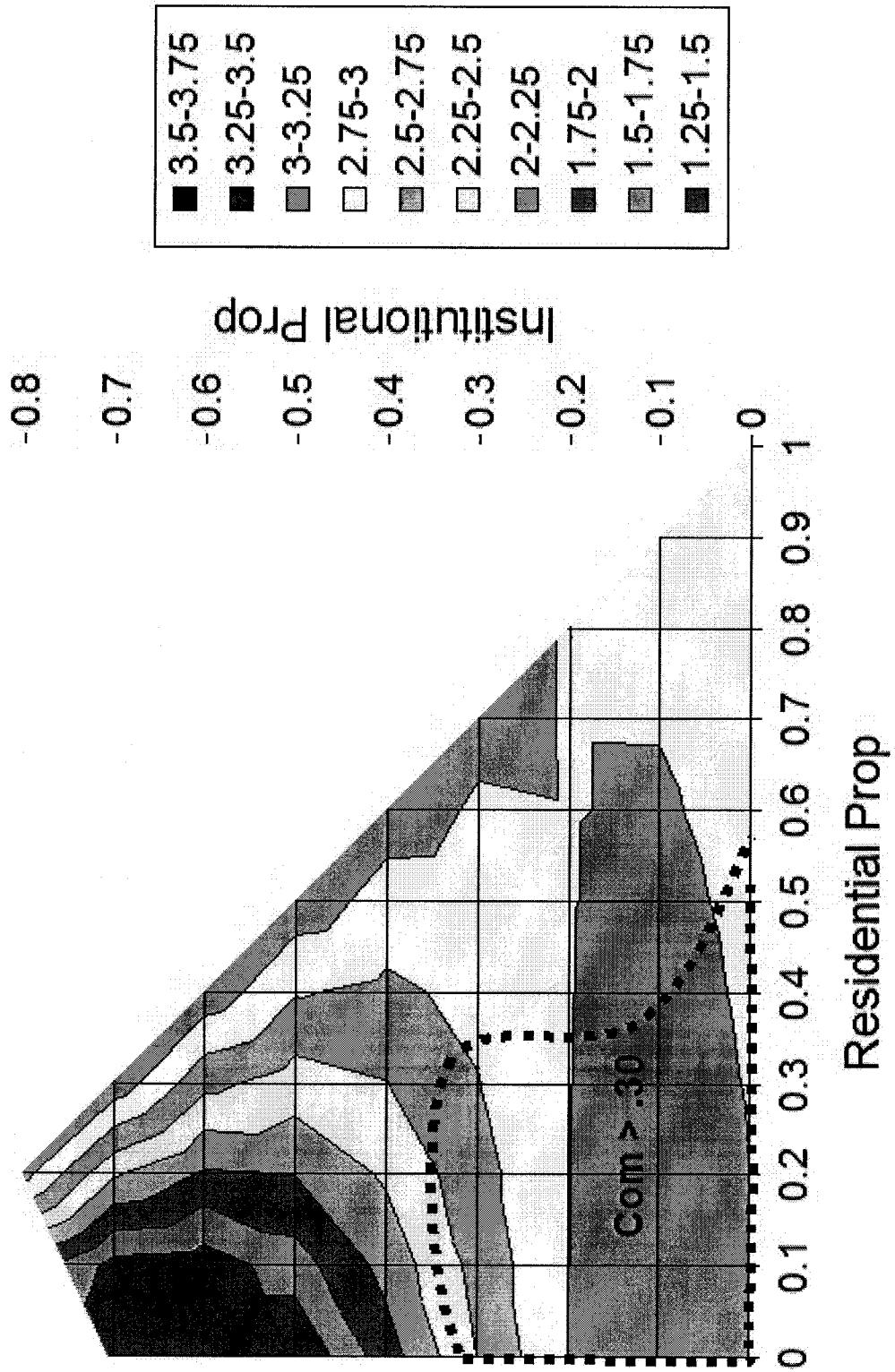
- Collaborate with local and regional health agencies (e.g., Florida and Dade County Health Departments).
- Communicate with Organizations (e.g., Board of Commissioners) to improve public health in work, educational, and residential settings.
- Encourage changes in policy and implementation

Walking trips decline

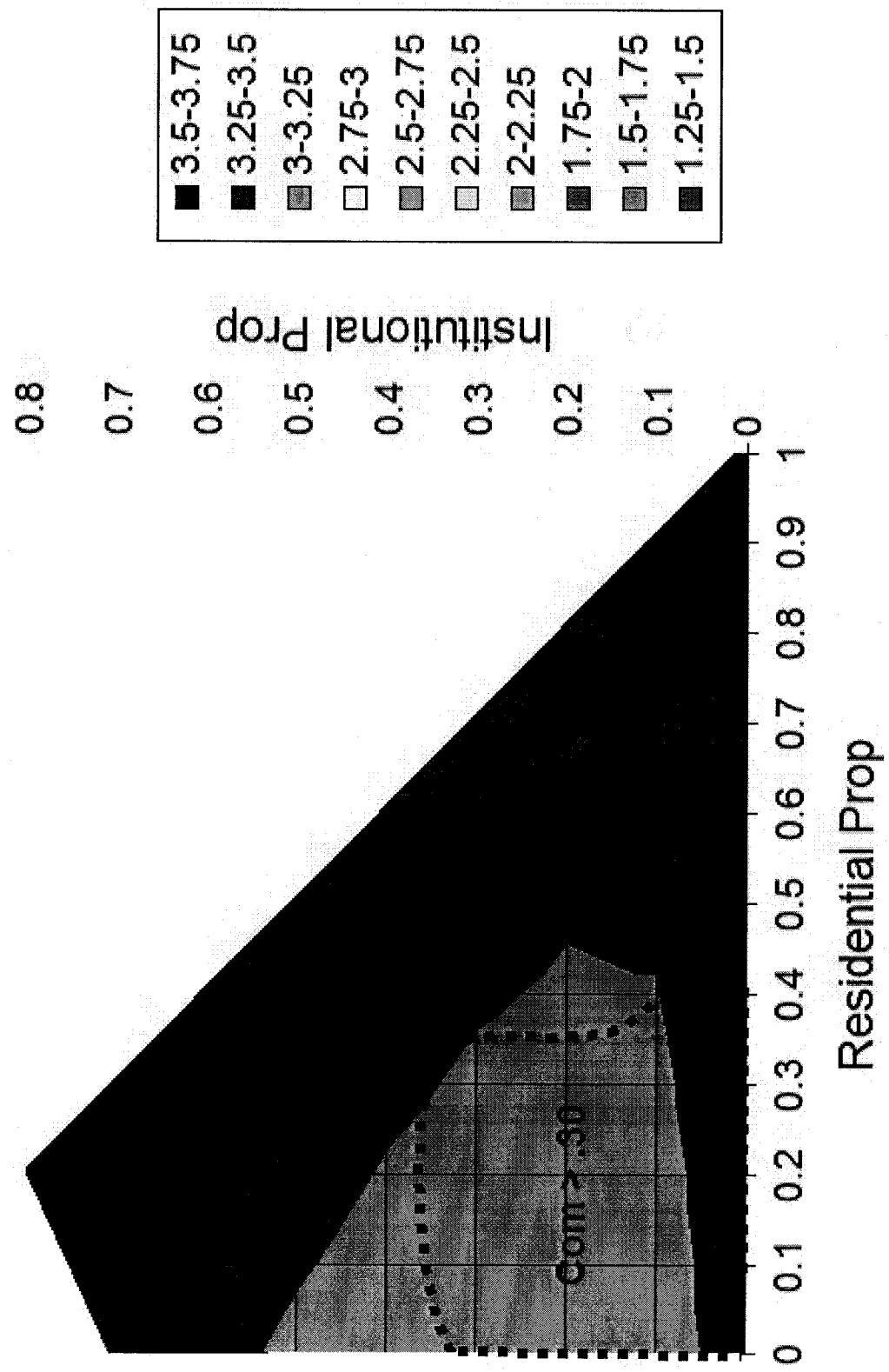


Source: Surface Transportation Policy Project - Based on data from the Nationwide Personal Transportation Survey and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
From Schilling & Linton, 2004

Diversity Effects on Conduct Grades-Male



Diversity Effects on Conduct Grades-Female



Areas of Community Design Policy that Can Be Revised to Promote Health

- **Land Development Codes**--government controls or policies that affect development and use of land and associated structures.
- **Zoning**--local statutes that establish land use districts and prescribe height and bulk, setbacks, density, etc.
- **Subdivision regulations and impact fees**
- **Building and housing codes**
- **Engineering standards**
- **Architectural and design guidelines**